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January 27, 2003

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist   
TO: File  
Re: Status of Plan of Operations and Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations, Uintah Mountain Copper Company, Sunshine/Hematite Claims, S/013/002, Duchesne County, Utah

On January 10, 2003, I telephoned Chauncie Todd of the Ashley National Forest to ask him about the status of the plan of operations for the referenced mine. The Forest Service approved this plan of operations April 5, 2002, but later withdrew the approval based on an appeal from the Utah Environmental Congress. The Division had written the Forest Service indicating it was ready to consider the Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations (NOI) to be complete but that certain information needed to be included in the NOI.

Mr. Todd said the Forest Service does not anticipate the operator needing to revise the plan of operations, but the Forest Service will need to revise the environmental assessment (EA) to fully address the issues raised by the Utah Environmental Congress. The team that will write the new EA should begin meeting in the latter part of January 2003, and although I do not remember Chauncie saying how long it will take to write the new EA, my impression was that it should not take more than a month or two.